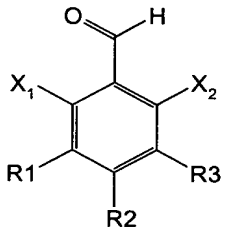
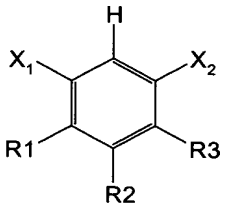
1. (original) A process for preparing 1,3-di-halo-substituted benzene derivatives (II) from 2,6-di-halo-substituted benzaldehydes (I) (where X_1, X_2 are each independently F, Cl, Br, and R_1, R_2, R_3 are each independently H, halogen, OH, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, CF_3, CHO, C_6-C_{14}-aryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, NO_2) by reacting with an alkaline medium, which comprises initially charging the alkaline medium and metering in the 2,6-di-halo-substituted benzaldehyde (I) or initially charging the 2,6-di-halo-substituted benzaldehyde (I) and metering in the alkaline medium.



(I)



(II)

2. (original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the 2,6-di-halo-substituted benzaldehydes (I) used are 2,6-difluorobenzaldehyde, 2-chloro-6-fluorobenzaldehyde, tetrafluoroterephthalaldehyde, 2,4,6-trifluorobenzaldehyde, 4-chloro-2,6-difluorobenzaldehyde, 2,4-dichloro-6-fluorobenzaldehyde, pentafluorobenzaldehyde, 3,5-dichloro-2,4,6-trifluorobenzaldehyde, 2,4,5,6-tetrafluorobenzene-1,3-dicarbaldehyde or 5-chloro-2,4,6-trifluorobenzene-1,3-dicarbaldehyde.

3. (original) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the 2,6-di-halo-substituted benzaldehydes (I) used are 2,6-difluorobenzaldehyde, 2-chloro-6-fluorobenzaldehyde or tetrafluoroterephthalaldehyde.

4. (currently amended) The process as claimed in <u>claim</u> ~~at least one of claims~~ 1 ~~to~~ ~~3~~, wherein the alkaline medium used is an aqueous alkali metal or alkaline earth metal hydroxide or carbonate solution.

5. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the reaction is carried out within a temperature range of 50 - 215°C.

6. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the reaction is carried out within a temperature range of 70 - 160°C.

7. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the reaction is carried out under a protective gas.

8. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the concentration of the alkaline medium is in the range from 40 to 50% by weight.

9. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the yields of the derivatives of the formula (II) are > 80%.

10. (new) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the alkaline medium used is an aqueous alkali metal or alkaline earth metal hydroxide or carbonate solution.

11. ((new) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the reaction is carried out within a temperature range of 50 - 215°C.

12. (new) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the reaction is carried out within a temperature range of 70 - 160°C.

13. (new) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the reaction is carried out under a protective gas.

14. (new) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the concentration of the alkaline medium is in the range from 40 to 50% by weight.

15. (new) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the yields of the derivatives of the formula (II) are > 80%.